

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T STATE 049991

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 1019 ACTION SECSTATE 15 FEBRUARY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 1019

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR TW

SUBJECT: NPT AND ROC

REF: STATE 32474

FROM NPT PREPCOM DEL

1. QUESTION OF ROC ATTENDANCE AT REVIEW CONFERENCE HAS COME UP SEVERAL TIMES IN DEBATE AND IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON INITIATIVE OF OTHERS; WE HAVE ALSO MADE LOW-KEY SOUNDINGS OF OUR OWN, BUT HAVE TRIED NOT TO EXCITE UNDUE ATTENTION OR REACTION LEST SITUATION BECOME MORE CONTENTIOUS.

2. FIRST NOTICE WAS LAST YEAR WHEN ROMANIAN DELEGATION IN PREPCOM
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SESSION MADE STRONG STATEMENT THAT LISTING OF CHINESE LANGUAGE AS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF TREATY AND CONFERENCE MUST NOT BE CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH ANY IDEA OF ATTENDANCE BY TAIWAN. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS ROMANIANS HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THEY BELIEVE ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WOULD BE MET AT FIRST APPEARANCE BY INTERRUPTING OR POSTPONING OTHER MATTERS TO DISPOSE OF ROC QUESTION, WHICH THEY THINK WOULD BE DECIDED AGAINST ROC.

3. EARLY IN PC III CANADIAN AMB EXPRESSED VIEW TO US THAT ATTEMPT BY ROC TO ATTEND WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR CONFERENCE, CAUSING DELEGATIONS TO WALK OUT, ETC. SUBSEQUENTLY WE WERE TOLD BY OTHER CANADIAN MISSION OFFICERS THAT CANADIAN GOVT HAD MADE DECISION TO OPPOSE ROC SEATING IF THEY APPEAR.

4. SWEDEN TOLD US THAT THEIR GOVT HAD DECIDED IT WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST ROC IF ISSUE ARISES.

5. ASUTRALIA MISSION SAYS THEY ARE STILL STRUGGLING WITH DILEMMA AND HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE ISSUE. CANADA, SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA ALL VOICED HOPE ROC COULD BE PERSUADED NOT TO APPLY.

6. UK REACTED TO OUR QUESTION WITH STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE REQUESTED FROM LONDON. AFTER CONSULTING CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS TOLD US THEY WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST ROC SINCE POLITICAL QUESTION OF PRC RELATIONS OUTWEIGHS NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS.

7. YUGOSLAV REP THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE IMMEDIATE FIGHT ON FLOOR IF ROC APPEARS, WITHOUT WAITING FOR MATTER TO BE REFERRED TO CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. HE THOUGHT ROC COULD NEVER WIN SUCH A CONTEST BUT IT MIGHT EMBROIL CONFERENCE FOR MOST OF A WEEK.

8. MEXICAN REP THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE PUSH FOR FAST CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE BY CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND ROC WOULD LOSE OUT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THE PHILIPPINE DEL MIGHT BE PLANNING TO CHAMPION ROC CAUSE. (PHIL DEL HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY OUTSPOKEN IN SESSIONS IN DEMANDING THAT ROC BE LISTED IN RELEVANT IAEA AND OTHER PAPERS WHEREVER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, SUCH AS IN LISTS OF ATTENDANTS AT PREVIOUS IAEA MEETINGS, ETC.) MEXICAN ACKNOWLEDGED ROC WAS PARTY TO TREATY.

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9. SOVIET AMB FROM BEGINNING AGREED TO DEFINITION OF "PARTY" AS ANY STATE LISTED AS SUCH BY A DEPOSITARY AND THAT ROC MET THIS TEST. HE HAS, HOWEVER, TENDED TO PASS OFF ANY SUGGESTION THAT ROC MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ATTEND WITH A LAUGH.

10. THAILAND AMB FEELS ROC HAS RIGHT TO ATTEND AS PARTY TO TREATY AND THAT RIGHT SHOULD BE RESPECTED. HOWEVER, QUESTION OF ACTUAL ATTEMPT TO ATTEND IS DIFFERENT MATTER, IN LIGHT OF PRO-

BABILITY THAT ROC WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

11. PHILIPPINE REP SAYD ROC HAS RIGHT TO ATTEND AND ROC OFFICIALS (ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION) HAVE TOLD HIM THEY INTEND TO DO SO. HE FEELS ROC HAS TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISION ON THIS AND DOUBTS THAT GOP WOULD WANT TO GIVE ANY ADVICE TO ROC ON THAT SCORE. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES ROC CREDENTIALS LIKELY TO BE REFUSED AND MUSED ALOUD WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY TO HEAD THEM OFF.

12. FINAL SHOT CAME IN LAST DAY OF PREPCOM, WHEN NIGERIAN AMB TOOK FLOOR TO SUGGEST THAT FRIENDS OF ANY STATE THAT WAS PARTY TO NPT AT TIME IT CAME INTO EFFECT, BUT WHICH HAS SINCE LOST ITS STATUS AS A MEMBER OF UN, SHOULD ADVISE SUCH STATE NOT TO TRY TO COME TO REVIEW CONFERENCE.

13. ABOVE ARE ALL DETAILS NOW ON HAND. DEPT SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY HINT OF IDEA THAT U.S. WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE ROC NOT TO COME. ON CONTRARY, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED LEGAL POSITION OF ROC AS PARTY TO TREATY, FACT IT HAS SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT BEING CARRIED OUT BY IAEA, AND DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF ANY REBUFF THAT WOULD CAUSE ROC TO CONSIDER ITSELF FREE OF NPT CONSTRAINTS. ALL WE HAVE TALKED WITH APPEAR TO APPRECIATE LATTER FACTOR, AND GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT EMERGES MOST OFTEN IS THAT BEST OUTCOME FOR ALL POINTS OF VIEW WOULD BE FOR ROC NOT TO COME. DALE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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